

WILLIE OMAR SIU

NIH-Oxford Scholar 2006

Degrees: University of California at Irvine, B.S., Neurobiology, 2003

Research Interests: Basic Immunology & Ocular Inflammatory Diseases



Will graduated cum laude from the University of California at Irvine with a Bachelor of Science in Neurobiology in 2003 and began his medical training at the UCLA. After completing two years of medical school, Will won a prestigious Howard Hughes Medical Institute-NIH Research Fellowship and came to the NIH to work in the lab of Dr. Robert Nussenblatt at the National Eye Institute. As an undergraduate, Will was on the Dean's Honor list for eleven consecutive quarters, a member of the Campuswide Honors Program, and a Ronald E. McNair Research Fellow. In addition, he won numerous awards, including the Lawrence J. Mehlman Prize, the Lilly Endowment Inc/Hispanic Scholarship, and the Excellence in Research in Biological Sciences Award. At UCLA medical school, Will won the Stanton Hale Medical Scholarship and an American Heart Association Medical Student Research Fellowship. Outside of academics, Will co-founded the Nicaraguan Health Project at UCLA, which exists to conduct clinical research on health care delivery in Managua, Nicaragua. He also participated as coordinator and counselor for UCI CampMed, served as a member on the Committee on Admissions for the UCLA David Geffen School of Medicine, and acted as Graduate Mentor for the Pre-Graduate Undergraduate Mentorship Program at UCLA. Will's significant research experience includes his work with Dr. Mary-Frances Lopez at Boston's Children's Hospital as part of Harvard's Summer Honors Undergraduate Research Program. He was also the first and only student from UCI to be admitted to the University of California LEADs research fellowship through UCSF. Will is interested in studying basic mechanisms of disease pathology and how this information can be used to improve therapeutic interventions. The gaps that currently exist in medical understanding of pathology inspire Will to "combine my time at the bedside, with time at the benchside, so that I can personally contribute to discoveries that will change the way medicine is practiced."